



IDEM's Surface Water Quality Assessment Program

Assessment Branch

Program Objective

The Office of Water Quality Assessment Branch is responsible for assessing the quality of water in Indiana's surface waters (rivers, streams, and lakes). Virtually every element of IDEM's surface water quality monitoring program is directly or indirectly related to one or more activities currently carried out by this Branch. The biological and surface water monitoring activities, which are directed by the Branch's Water Quality Monitoring Strategy: 2006-2010 (hereafter *Strategy*), identify stream reaches, watershed basins or segments where physical, chemical, or biological quality support designated uses or does not support designated uses due to are impaired by either point or non-point source pollution.

Program Participants

The Assessment Branch is composed of three sections which collaborate to collect data and assess the quality in Indiana's surface waters.

1. **Surveys Section** is responsible for surface water quality monitoring of rivers and streams. The results of this sampling provide water quality and hydrological data for assessing the quality of the state's waterways and for determining the effect of point and non-point sources on receiving streams. The Section provides data for TMDL models, the Indiana Integrated Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report, and waste load allocations for NPDES permitting purposes. The data that are collected by IDEM monitoring and assessment programs enables staff to analyze long-term and seasonal trends, the quality of targeted drinking water sources, as well as ambient surface water quality throughout Indiana. This Section also provides nutrient and *E. coli* data for assessment of rivers and streams in the state during probabilistic sampling, and assists with water quality standards determinations as well as enforcement and compliance issues.
2. **Biological Studies Section** conducts fish and macroinvertebrate community studies and habitat assessments to establish biological standards to which all other streams may be compared in order to identify impaired streams or watersheds. The Stressor Identification Program - Biological Assemblage Impairments and Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program are the responsibility of this Section. In addition, the Biological Studies Section conducts fish tissue and sediment sampling to pinpoint sources of toxic and bio-concentrating substances. Fish tissue data serves as the basis for fish consumption advisories which are issued to protect the health of sport and subsistence fishermen, in addition to all fish consumers. The Section also participates in developing water quality standards.
3. **Environmental Toxicity and Chemistry Section** provides quality assurance review of water quality data collected during field studies and laboratory analyses, and reviews sampling and analysis work plans for compliance with quality assurance project plans. This Section also evaluates whole effluent toxicity data and reports, evaluates sediments analysis data and develops interim sediments quality criteria, evaluates requests for site specific water quality standards, reviews metal translators studies, and data gathered during investigations of toxic releases to the environment.

Program Description

Media:	Surface water: rivers, streams and lakes
Study Area:	Statewide
Site Selection Type:	see Fact Sheets listed in Program Products section below
Sampling Sites:	see Fact Sheets listed in Program Products section below
Sampling Frequency:	see Fact Sheets listed in Program Products section below
Data Collected:	see Fact Sheets listed in Program Products section below

Program Products

- < Report: *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Strategy: 2001-2005.* B-016-OWQ-A-98-R4
- < Fact Sheet: *Probabilistic Monitoring Program* B-001-OWQ-A-98-R5

Surveys Section

- < Fact Sheet: *Surveys Section.* B-015-OWQ-A-SU-98-R4 (rev. 3/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Fixed Station (Ambient) Monitoring Program.* B-012-OWQ-A-SU-98-R5 (rev. 3/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *E .coli Monitoring Program.* B-019-OWQ-A-SU-99-R5 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Source Identification Program – Water Quality Impairments.* B-020-OWQ-A-SU-03-R3
- < Fact Sheet: *Trace Metals Sampling Program.* B-022-OWQ-A-SU-01-R1 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Nutrient Sampling Program.* B-026-OWQ-A-SU-06-R0
- < Fact Sheet: *TMDL Sampling Program* B-030-OWQ-A-CH-06-R0

Biological Studies Section

- < Fact Sheet: *Biological Studies Section.* B-006-OWQ-A-BS-98-R4 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Fish Community Assessment Program.* B-004-OWQ-A-BS-98-R5 (rev. 3/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Fish Tissue Contaminant Monitoring Program.* B-005-OWQ-A-BS-98-R4 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Macroinvertebrate Community Assessment Program.* B-007-OWQ-A-BS-98-R4 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Sediment Contaminant Monitoring Program.* B-008-OWQ-A-BS-98-R4 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Fish Consumption Risk Assessment.* B-024-OWQ-A-BS-01-R2 (rev. 2/2006)
- < Fact Sheet: *Stressor Identification Program – Biological Assemblage Impairments.* B-029-OWQ-A-BS-06-R0
- < Fact Sheet: *Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program.* IDEM 32/01/009/1998 (rev. 2/2006)

Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Section

- < Fact Sheet: *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Section.* B-003-OWQ-A-CH-98-R4
- < Fact Sheet: *Quality Assurance Project Plan For Indiana Surface Water Programs.* B-023-OWQ-A-CH-01-R1

Technical Notes

Please read the Fact Sheets listed in the Program Products section above.

Contact Information

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<p>IDEM Information: (317) 232-8603 or 800-451-6027 800-743-3333(TDD) toll-free for Indiana residents www.IN.gov/idem/water/</p> <p>Report Environmental Emergencies: (888) 233-7745</p> <p>Confidential Technical Assistance: (800) 988-7901</p> <p>Pollution Complaint: www.IN.gov/idem/pollutioncomplaints/</p> <p>Questions and Comments: www.IN.gov/idem/contact/questions.html</p>	<p><u>For More Information on IDEM's Office of Water Quality...</u></p> <p>Assessment Branch (Surface water quality monitoring: rivers and streams, lakes, water quality standards) Shadeland Office, Indianapolis (317) 308-3173</p> <p>Compliance Branch (Compliance and inspections, data and information services, wastewater certification and continuing education) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 233-2545</p> <p>Drinking Water Branch (Public water supply supervision and ground water protection) Shadeland Office, Indianapolis (317) 308-3308</p> <p>Permitting Branch (Facilities Construction & Engineering Support, Industrial & municipal permits, modeling, and wet weather) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 232-8760</p> <p>Watershed Planning Branch (Rules development, wetlands, TMDL, watershed management) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 233-8488</p>
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